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6 April 1959

THRU : Mr. [REDACTED]  
Room 2012 Barton Hall  
Chief, Industrial Division, ORR  
Chief, Aircraft Branch, D/I

Comments on Civil Aviation Paper - "Capabilities of the Sino-Soviet Bloc to Penetrate Civil Aviation in the Less Developed Areas"

1. We have reviewed the paper as you requested. We believe that it is a good appraisal of the postwar development of USSR transport aircraft and the expansion of civil aviation in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. The paper does a good job of pointing out the shortcomings of the TU-104 as a competitive commercial transport aircraft. There is some good evidence which suggests that the An-10 and the Il-18 aircraft also may not measure up to competitive Western aircraft. While we have no evidence that Tu-110 and Tu-114 will go into production, Dementiev did indicate [REDACTED] that both aircraft would go into service operation during 1959-1960.

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2. The following comments are on subjects outside our area of responsibility, and we are not sure you want them but they are passed along anyhow. We believe that whatever propaganda gains achieved outside the Bloc created by the Tu-104 have been offset considerably, if not completely, by the fact that the aircraft is inferior as a commercial transport by Western standards. Large scale operation of the aircraft within the Bloc can only result in an economic drain of some magnitude. We believe that the Soviets have yet to resolve the problems of coming up with satisfactory designs and programs which will result in efficient commercial transport operations. Penetration of underdeveloped areas by means of civil aviation therefore could prove not only very expensive for the Soviets but down right embarrassing.

3. The only real criticism we have about the paper is that the writer leaves the reader to draw his own conclusions as to the future developments in the situation. The analysis is good but we think that the writer is better qualified to make conclusions and to forecast than is the reader. Of course this may have been done in another part of the paper which was not sent to us.

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